

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached replacement sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to Figures 1, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10.

Please replace the 6 sheet(s) of drawings on file, including Figures 1, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10, with the attached 6 sheet(s) corresponding thereto.

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are present in this application. Claims 1, 6-7, 9-11, 15-16, 22-24, and 30 are independent. No claims have been canceled, no claims have been added, claims 1-22 have been withdrawn, and claims 23-24 and 30 have been amended. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Drawing Objection

The Examiner has objected to the Drawings for allegedly not being clear. Accordingly, Applicants have amended the Drawings and/or have submitted new Drawings as required by the Examiner. No new matter has been added. Based on the amended Drawings and/or new Drawings, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding objection be withdrawn.

Based on the amended Drawings and/or new Drawings, Applicants assume that the Drawings are now acceptable and that no further action is necessary. However, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate the acceptance of the Drawings in the next Office Action.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 23-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for allegedly “being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.” More specifically, the Examiner alleges that he “is not sure what applicant means by the term ‘a predetermined remaining number of times available.’” Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In order to address the Examiner’s concerns, Applicants have amended independent claim 23 (and similarly in independent claims 24 and 30) to recite “wherein said game performing unit transfers the data which is stored in association with said client device of a side defeated in said competition and which represents any one of the characters configuring said party, together with its a ~~predetermined~~ remaining number of times available, and stores said data and said ~~predetermined~~ remaining number of times available in association with said client device of the side which wins said competition.”

Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments fully address the Examiner's concerns. Thus, based on these amendments, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 23-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Tajiri et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,482,092) in view of Gress et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0151320) in further view of Yamato et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0162136). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Argument: Features of claim 23-24 and 30 not disclosed by cited prior art

In Yamato, the first game device lends characters to the second game device. At this time, character data that is borrowed and lent is stored in the CPU cores of the first game device and the second game device. (See Yamato, paragraph 56.) In contrast to this, in the claimed invention, data indicating characters is transferred along with the remaining number of times available for use of the characters. Thus, in Yamato, character data is not stored in the device after fighting, whereas in the claimed invention, character data is stored in the client device that wins. Moreover, in Yamato, the remaining number of times available for use is not transferred, whereas in the claimed invention, the remaining number of times available for use is transferred along with character data. Therefore, with the use of the claimed invention, it is possible to provide a strategic game in which a player can form a party depending on the wins and losses of fighting-type games in consideration of the remaining number of times available for use.

Although, in Gress, character data is transferred from one player to another, the game thereof is simply a card game, and Gress is unsuitable for processing of storing character data depending on the wins and losses. Therefore, even if Yamato is combined with Gress, it is not possible to provide a strategic game according to the claimed invention. The same applies to Tajiri.

In sum, the cited prior art (*i.e.*, Yamato, Gress, and Tajiri) fails to disclose the claimed invention of independent claims 23-24 and 30.

Thus, independent claims 23-24 and 30 are submitted to be allowable over the cited prior art for at least the above reasons.

Dependent claims 25-29 are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regards to claim 23 at least based on their dependency on claim 23.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 23-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 23-30 are respectfully requested for at least the above reasons.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks and amendments, it is believed that the pending application is in condition for allowance.

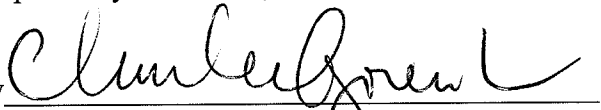
Applicants respectfully request that the pending application be allowed.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Aslan Ettehadieh (Reg. No. 62,278) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Director is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge any fees required during the pendency of the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

Dated: March 7, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Charles Gorenstein

Registration No.: 29271

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road, Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, VA 22040-0747

703-205-8000

Attachments: Figures 1, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10